

Remarks

This amendment is responsive to the Office action mailed December 21, 2010.

Regarding the Section 112 rejection of claim 14, the claim is cancelled.

Regarding the Section 103 rejection of claims 2-7, 10, 14-20, 23, 24, 30, 32-34, the claims are cancelled. Rejected claim 26 has been amended to recite features of allowable claim 22.

The remaining claims have been limited to the subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner on page 13 of the Office action, with the addition of new independent claim 35. The claims indicated to be allowable have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of the relevant base claims. New claim 35 is closely related to allowable claim 11, with the additional feature of the ingress node having at least one optical demultiplexer.

Conclusion

Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

You are authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0590.

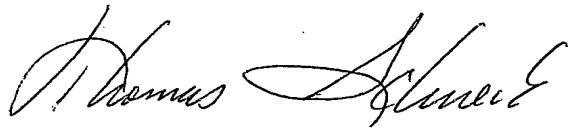
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing System in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Signed: Sally Azevedo
Typed Name: Sally Azevedo

Date: April 21, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



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